

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicants express appreciation for the telephone interview conducted by Examiner Alex Wang on February 26, 2004 with Applicants' attorney, D'Ann Naylor Rifai. Although no agreement was reached, the amendments presented in this submission are believed to be in harmony with the discussion during the interview.

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-25 are rejected.

Claims 1, 13, 20, and 23 have been amended.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13 and 15-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Choquier, et al., do not teach a computer network comprising:

a client device configured to access a first service of the plurality of services by accessing a service point map on the client device to obtain the corresponding service address for the first service, wherein the service point map comprises a listing of at least one service of the plurality of services available on the network and the corresponding service address for each service of the at least one service

as required by amended claim 1. The Office Action indicates that the "at least one client device..." claimed corresponds to item 102 of Choquier, et al., and the "service point map..." of claim 1 corresponds to item 136. Office Action dated October 31, 2003, page 3, paragraph 5. Applicants respectfully submit that the service point map of Choquier, et al., is not present on the client device, and thus Choquier, et al. does not teach the above element of claim 1.

Because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

With reference to independent claim 13, amended claim 13 recites the following elements:

generating a table listing of at least one service connected to the network and corresponding location information for each service of the at least one service, wherein a first service of the at least one service is selected from the plurality of services using a first partitioning scheme; and

providing the table listing to a client computer system configured to access a second service of the at least one service using the table listing on the client computer system to obtain the corresponding location information for the second service.

Choquier, et al., do not teach providing the table listing to a client computer system configured to access a second service using the table listing on the client computer system. Accordingly, Choquier, et al., does not teach all of the elements of independent claim 13, and independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-19 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

With reference to independent claim 20, the Office Action states that claims 20-22 are rejected for the same reason as claims 1-3 and 13. Applicants respectfully submit that, as with independent claims 1 and 13, Choquier, et al., do not teach “transferring a dynamic service point map to the client process,” where the client process is configured to use “the corresponding location information in the dynamic service point map on the client” as required by independent claim 20. Accordingly, independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21 and 22 are allowable for at least this reason.

With reference to independent claim 23, the Office Action states that claims 23-25 are rejected for the same reason as claims 20-22. Applicants respectfully submit that, as with independent claims 1 and 13, Choquier, et al., do not teach “transferring instructions to transfer a dynamic service point map to a client process,” where the client process is configured to use “the corresponding location information in the dynamic service point map on the client,” as required by independent claim 23. Accordingly, independent claim 23 and its dependent claims 24 and 25 are allowable for at least this reason.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, claim 4 is allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Fujimoto, JP02001117932A. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, or independent claim 13, from which claim 14 depends, claims 6 and 14 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Al-Ghosein, et al., U.S. Patent 6,473,791. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claims 7 and 8 depend, claims 7 and 8 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Bartle, et al., U.S. Patent 6,188,888. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claims 11 and 12 depend, claims 11 and 12 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **March 1, 2004**.


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3/1/04
Date of Signature

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